

The suggestion made in these pages some months ago that the state examination questions be used as a competitive contest, after the order of the old time spelling matches, would freshen up the methods of many a nurse who has been too busy or indifferent to give much time to study, and would also prove an amusing entertainment for half an hour. Moreover, the practical value of the questions would be demonstrated in a way to make criticism of them by the associations of great help to the examiners.

Delegates to the national and state associations should be chosen early in the year and instructed in subjects of business or professional discussion that are likely to arise. The Associated Alumnae is beginning early on its program and asks in this number of the *JOURNAL* for suggestions. If each affiliated association would send to the chairman of the Program Committee one suggestion, the subjects to be considered would represent broader interests.

Closer conference of the superintendents of nurses in the large centres and a teachers' auxiliary in every state society would give much force to educational progress.

All of these suggestions are taken from work already being done, and we do not offer them as original, but of such practical value that their adoption is recommended.

We have always advocated a broad division of executive responsibility in all organization life. With a monopoly of office, interest dwindles, and personal dictation creeps in. No one group of women and no one section of the country should be permitted to rule for too long a time, even when such groups are the willing workers of the association.

Popular subjects such as local option, suffrage, the Emanuel Church movement, tuberculosis, venereal prophylaxis, and school nursing, which appeal to nurses as citizens should at this time, more than ever before, have a place in the winter's program.

THE END OF A YEAR

WITH this issue the *JOURNAL* closes its eighth volume and enters upon the coming year practically the property of the Associated Alumnae. Professionally, the *JOURNAL* has never been in such splendid condition as at this time. Its influence is broader, it is in closer touch with many more lines of work, the support of the profession is more cordially expressed, and its subscription list is larger.

We have assurance that our efforts in behalf of the Red Cross are bringing very material results to that society in more general enrollment

of nurses. The correspondence which is developing in regard to visiting nurse work shows that the JOURNAL is being depended upon more and more in the establishment and conduct of this line of work. The missionary department has been one of the most successful of our new ventures and will be continued on practically the same lines. Through it we have come to realize the greater value of our JOURNAL to nurses living in foreign lands, separated from the professional inspiration which is within such easy reach of those who stay at home.

The two series of articles on diet have created great interest. Miss Wheeler's will be discontinued for the present, and taken up again later. After completing the subject of foods, she will give us some papers on general chemistry to meet the needs of the teaching body, if we have some assurance from instructors of nurses that the subject is desired. Miss Hamman's articles on "Housekeeping for Two" will be continued. Her recipes all have practical value. They have been tested as they came along by a member of the JOURNAL staff and, we doubt not, by many of its readers. Presented without frills, they are absolutely accurate and satisfactory.

NEW LINES OF WORK

Ever since the JOURNAL came into existence it has acted as a free agency for the nurses of the country for almost every need that the profession requires. One of the heaviest duties in connection with it has been to take care of an immense correspondence covering every subject, from the scores of problems of the private nurse to state registration, and the whole circle of the educational side of hospitals and training schools, positions, discipline, courses of study, text-books, books of reference, etc.

It has been decided to add two definite departments to the JOURNAL's already broad field of usefulness. The first is a JOURNAL directory for hospitals and nurses, through which the business manager will, if the response is what is expected, be in a position to place hospitals which need, into communication with nurses who are seeking, positions. The fee must depend upon the amount of time and labor involved in each instance, all such transactions being strictly confidential.

The second is the establishment of an agency for nursing books of all kinds. With the increasing number of text-books now used in different schools, requiring orders to be placed with half a dozen different publishers, the busy superintendent will find the filling of her orders greatly simplified by making up her list and sending it to the business office of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. If her instructions are clear, and the money order drawn to the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF